

The Washington Merry-Go-Round

GOP Links Rivals to Liquor Lobby

By Drew Pearson

Republican Congressmen attempted to put the Democrats in the position of defending the liquor lobby when 30 energetic House members acted to raise the drinking age in the District of Columbia from 18 to 21, thereby making it coincide with the drinking age in Maryland and Virginia.



Pearson

Hilliard Schulberg, chief lobbyist for the Washington Retail Liquor Dealers Association, is now busy buttonholing Democrats to try to overrule the Republican amendment. He calls increasing the drinking age from 18 to 21: "a monster—economically, morally, and socially bad."

Spearheading the Republicans who wanted to remove the Nation's Capital as a Mecca of teen-age drinking were William Harsha, Ohio, Thomas Pelly, Wash., William Bray, Ind., William Springer, Ill., Ancher Nelsen, Minn., and H. R. Gross, Iowa, Charles Joelson of New Jersey was the only Democrat who actively supported them.

Minnesota's Nelsen had introduced a bill two years ago to change the drinking law in the Nation's Capital, but Democrats on the District

of Columbia Committee bottled it up.

Said Rep. Harsha: "The Nation's Capital has become an oasis for juvenile drinking... Youths of both sexes shout oaths and profanity, smash car windows, break neighborhood fencing. Beer bottles are thrown through house windows. Autos and motorcycles race up and down District streets. There is loud blowing of horns in the early hours of the morning, street fighting, in other words, a general disturbance of the peace and quite in the District of Columbia."

It will be interesting to see what the Democrats, who control both the House and Senate District Committees and both Houses of Congress do about the Republicans' "head start" program for teen-agers in the Nation's Capital.

No Doddism Here

No matter what the Senate Ethics Committee may do regarding Sen. Tom Dodd (D-Conn.), the publicity regarding his activities is already having its effect.

Not only has President Johnson sent a proposal to Congress regarding the regulation of campaign funds, but the other day in Springfield, Ill., Harry G. Taylor, president of the Illinois Republican County Chairmen's Association, clearly indicated that he had been reading the columns regarding Tom Dodd.

Reported the Illinois State

Register: "Drew Pearson's and Jack Anderson's columns you have been reading in the Register about Sen. Thomas J. Dodd's alleged misuse of campaign funds have the entire Congress of the United States shaken up."

"At the \$50-a-plate fund raising dinner in Decatur Sunday night, Harry G. (Skinny) Taylor went to great lengths to explain how the money would be used."

"He said Thomas Harris of Lincoln, Republican State Committeeman, would appoint a committee to distribute the funds. One of the committee members will be a certified public accountant."

"I think it should be known that none of the funds received by the committee will be used for any personal expenditures of Congressman Springer," Taylor said."

Big Money Talks

Senate campaigns are not the only place where big money talks big. It also talks big in influencing some of the pipeline cases which affect gas and oil to millions of housewives and thousands of factory owners.

It's difficult for newspapermen to dig out the facts on all these cases, but in regard to El Paso Natural Gas, the company which supplies gas to most of California, here are some of the fees paid to high-powered attorneys to maintain El Paso's near monopoly: Sullivan and Cromwell, the

Wall Street firm of the late John Foster Dulles, was paid \$946,645.54 for its legal work before the Federal Power Commission and the U.S. courts.

Nixon, Mudge, Rose, Guthrie and Alexander, the New York firm of former Vice President Richard Nixon, was paid \$77,629.20.

G. Bentley Ryan, the Los Angeles attorney who raised money for Mayor Sam Yorty's testimonial dinner, was paid \$254,061.61.

All these legal fees are a matter of record, filled with various Government agencies. Not of record are the fees paid by El Paso to Clark Clifford, the adviser to Presidents and now under consideration to be Under Secretary of State for LBJ; or the fee paid by Clifford to Larry L. Williams, formerly of the Antitrust Division, who handled the El Paso case for the Justice Department. Williams formed the Clifford law firm after he left the Justice Department.

It's significant that thanks to the tenacity of one underpaid California servant, William M. Bennett of the California Public Utilities Commission, all of these lawyers were beaten.

Bennett stuck to his guns, persisted in appealing various lower court rulings to the Supreme Court and has won. Bennett receives a salary of only \$26,000 a year from the State of California.

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